THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No such commitment was given on behalf of the Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is no specific programme under the Ministry of Mines in the Eighth Five Year Plan. However, to make good any damage that may be caused due to mining operations, Rule 41 of the Mineral conservation and Development Rules, 1988 requires the mining lease holders not only to carry out the mining operations in a manner that would cause least damage to the flora of the area but also to:—

(i) take immediate measures for planting in the same area or any other areas selected by the Controller General or the authorised officer not less than twice the number of trees destroyed by reason of any prospecting or mining operations;

(ii) look after them during the subsistence of the licence/lease after which these trees shall be handed over to the State Forest Department or any other authority as may be nominated by the Controller General or the authorised officer; and

(iii) restore, to the extent possible, other flora destroyed by prospecting or mining operations.

Stock Piling of aluminium

3919. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a declining trend in domestic consumption and consistent stock piling of aluminium;

(b) whether Government have received representation from the Aluminium Association of India in this regard and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of action taken/ proposed in this regard; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government to the report which appeared in Hindustan Times of the 28th November, 1992 in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) There has been a marginal decrease in consumption of aluminium in 1991-92 when compared with 1990-91.

(b) yes. Aluminium Association of India has submitted a representation to Government pointing out the unsatisfactory trend in aluminium consumption due to high prices including excise levies and requesting for reduction in the present level of excise duty on aluminium and semi-fabricated products to lower prices and stimulate demand.

(c) & (d) There is no control by the Government on the price or distribution of aluminium, and producers are free to fix prices. Government have noted the report that appeared in the Hindustan Times in its issue dated 28th November, 1992 which refers to the representation of the Aluminium Association of India mentioned in part (b) of the question.

Clearance of Aluminium Projects

3920. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the public/ joint and private sector projects pending clearance of Government in aluminium sector;

(b) what are the expansion/ modernisation plans of existing aluminium companies during Eighth Plan separately for these sectors;

(c) what is the present production and consumption of aluminium;

(d) what is the projected growth during the Eighth Plan and production plans to meet the same;

(e) what steps are being taken to

activise the market for picking up the sluggish demand; and

(f) whether there is a proposal for price revision of aluminium and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Aluminium industry has been delicenced in July, 1991 under the New Industrial Policy. As such no approval of the Govt. either for setting up of new capacity or expansion of the existing capacity for production of aluminium is required from the Govt. The Government has received five applications for setting up 100% EOU for manufacture of Alumina based on Andhra Pradesh Bauxite deposits.

(b) the details of the projects/schemes of National Aluminium Company Limited. (NALCO) and Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd. (BALCO), THE TWO public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Mines is as follows:-

(i) *National Aluminium Co. Ltd. (NALCO)*

The PIB has considered and recommended implementation of the first phase of NALCO's expansion for increasing the Bauxite Mines capacity from 2.4. to 4.8 million tonnes per year and Alumina Refinery from 0.8 to 1.35 million tonnes per year at a cost of Rs. 970 crores to be implemented in 51 months from zero date.

The Billet Casting Facility at an estimated cost of Rs. 25 crores is under implementation to provide greater flexibility and to meet the changes in market demand.

(ii) *Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd. (BALCO)*

Setting up of a new cold rolling mill of 20,000 tonnes per annum capacity to produce thinner gauge sheets upto 0.15 mm thickness at an estimated cost of about Rs. 127 crores.

Modernisation of Korba Smelter at an estimated cost of about Rs. 76.5 crores which is expected to reduce the cost of production of metal and also increase productivity.

(c) and (d) During 1992-93 the production and domestic consumption is estimated to be 4.87 lakh tonnes and 4 lakh tonnes, respectively. By the terminal year of the 8th Plan, the production is projected at 6.65 lakh tonnes with the same order of demand.

(e) and (f) The Government does not determine prices of Aluminium. Individual producers are free to fix their prices in a competitive open market. It is learnt that the Aluminium Association of India is studying ways & means to stimulate demand.

संगम विहार, दिल्ली में खनन कार्य

3921. **श्री एन० गिरि प्रसाद:** क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली मिनरल डेवलपमेंट कारपोरेशन लि० ने दिल्ली में महरौली तहसील के अन्तर्गत देवली गांव में संगम विहार में पथरीली पहाड़ी भूमि को पट्टे पर लिया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो जमीन की खसरा संख्या और पट्टे की अवधि सहित पट्टे पर ली गई जमीन का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) क्या उस जमीन पर खनन कार्य अभी भी चल रहा है?

खान मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बलराम सिंह यादव): (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Organisation working under Ministry of Mines

3922. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) The Companies working under his ministry with profit/loss in each case;

(b) whether some of the companies have been earmarked for disinvestment;